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March 22, 2004

Mr. Dennis DeVany
Chief, EAS and Domestic Analysis Division
Office of Aviation Analysis
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW, Room 6401
Washington, DC 20590

Re: **Request for Proposals To Provide Essential Air Service At Adak, Atka and Nikolski,**
OST-00-8556 and 95-363-26

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Dear Mr. DeVany:

On behalf of Alaska Airlines, Inc. ("Alaska"), we are requesting a 28 day extension of time, i.e., from April 16 to May 14, for the submission of EAS proposals for service to Adak, Atka and Nikolski. This request is occasioned by not only the press of business under which Alaska's Planning staff finds itself, but also by the new "best and final" procedure contemplated by the RFP. The new procedure places far greater emphasis on each applicant carrier at the outset formulating the optimal proposal or series of proposals. The elimination of the negotiation phase under which carriers could previously revise their initial proposals requires immediate consideration of multiple options. Among those considerations unique to the State of Alaska are the variable revenue streams which depend on the routing of mail as well as the category of aircraft used for mail carriage.

Above all else, the extraordinary isolation of the three points under consideration make "getting it right" all the more critical. For all of the above reasons, Alaska believes that a 28 day extension until May 14 is warranted. A copy of this letter is being sent by e-mail to each person served with the RFP. In the event that any such person opposes this request, Alaska would ask that that person promptly notify the Defendant's EAS staff.

Sincerely yours,

Marshall S. Simick
Marshall S. Simick

cc: Dr. Dennis DeVany
Mr. Kevin Adams
All Persons service with the RFP

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